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**TO:** Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Shelley Rector CPA, CMA – Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** June 17, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Community Support Grants Policy

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**ORIGIN:** Adjustments due to discussions during budgeting discussions.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:** MGA sections 47(1) states “The council shall make decisions in the exercise of its powers and duties by resolution, by policy or by by-law”.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council refer approval of the attached Community Support Grants Policy to the regular meeting of Council on June 24, 2019.

**BACKGROUND:** During budget discussions, Council requested that change be made to the Community Support Grants Policy. Staff have attempted to take their suggestions and recommendations into consideration in the draft policy attached.

**DISCUSSION:** The attached draft policy contains the following changes:

1. A list of excluded items or organizations;
2. Eligible organizations;
3. Special Consideration Grants has been adjusted to include the NSCC grant and a grant for Maggie’s Place;
4. A list of limitations for the grants per section 8;
5. New categories of grants with limits;
6. Clarity and timeline adjustments for the grant process to ensure intake happens early enough for grant applications to be properly reviewed before being sent to Council;
7. Requirements for grant applications based on dollar value;
8. Authority for the CAO to approve applications for \$500 or less throughout the year;
9. Section 19 allows for a staggered payment process to ensure reports are received;
10. Staff would like to discuss whether it might be appropriate to revert to just one “A” Fresh Start event per year and the draft policy reflects this;
11. Appendix A was adjusted to ensure successful applicants are only eligible to receive funding every two years.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** The policy will not result in a change to the amount of budget.



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Social media will be used to communicate the changes to the policy. A copy of the new policy will be sent to those requesting a grant application for next year and those listed in section 7.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:** There are no environmental implications anticipated at this time.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS:** The changes to the policy are meant to ensure that funding from Community Support Grants is shared amongst a variety of organizations and that Council is encouraging the creation of new programs that are self-sustaining.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Make recommendations on what to change in the policy and bring a revised version to Council.
2. Leave the current policy in place.
3. Set up a special Committee of the Whole to discuss the policy in more detail before bringing it forward to a Council meeting for approval.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. Current Policy 2. Revised Policy